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BOROUGH OF OKEHAMPTON

ANNUAL REPORT

On the Health

of the District

for the year

1972

Presented by

The Medical Officer of Health

and

The Public Health Inspector and Surveyor

The Trident Press, Taylor Square, Tavistock. Tel. 3320

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Chairman:

ALDERMAN A. J. CROCKER

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR W. T. LETCHFORD

Members:

ALDERMEN: R. R. TAYLOR, C. E. W. WHITE

COUNCILLORS: M. J. CUNLIFFE, R. L. C. ELLIOTT, C. G. JONES, H. T. MATTHEWS, MRS. M. A. NASH, MISS J. E. PAULEY, MRS. G. I. WHITE, P. D. WOODGATE.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

MARY E. BUDDING, M.B., B.ch., B.Sc., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor:

T. F. BENNETT, M.A.P.H.I., A.I.P.H.E.

Assistants to Public Health Inspector and Surveyor:

MRS. J. M. MORGAN

N. F. WESTON

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health

MISS E. M. HAMBLY, S.R.N. (Part-time)

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BOROUGH OF OKEHAMPTON

Annual Report on the Health of the Area during 1972

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to present herewith the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough during 1972 in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Health and Social Security Circular 1/73 dated January 1973.

The estimated population again showed an increase of 10 only. The Standardised Birth Rate of 13.0 per 1000 population is a little lower than 1971, and than the National Rate. The Standardised Death Rate of 8.7 per 1000 population however, is lower than 1971 and than the National Rate. The majority of deaths were from circulatory and heart diseases.

,It is with pleasure that this year's Report indicates that (a) work has commenced on the new sewage works (b) the Old People's dwellings site problems have been resolved, therefore work should commence on completing these during 1973.

The general health of the community maintains it's high standard.

Finally, I should like to thank the Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors, Mr. Bennett and all the staff for their continued co-operation and support.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

MARY E. BUDDING

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION 'A'

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (statute acres)	786
Population—1951 census	3,899
Population—1961 census	3,864
Estimated home population—mid-1972	4,060
Number of inhabited dwellings	1,460
Rateable Value—1.4.72	£140,732
Product of the New Penny Rate 1972/73	£1,316
Loan debt.—31.3.72	£623,772.50

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	24	22	46
Illegitimate	1	1	2
			48
Deaths	32	32	64

		England and Wales
Live Births		
Number	48	
Crude rate per 1,000 population ...	11.8	14.8
Standardised Birth Rate	13.0	
Illegitimate Live Births		
(per cent of total births)	4%	9%
Still Births		
Number	Nil	
Rate per 1,000 total live/stillbirths	—	12
Total Live and Stillbirths	48	
Infant Deaths		
(deaths under 1 year)	Nil	
Infant Mortality Rates (deaths under 1 year of age		
Infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	—	17
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	—	17
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	18
Neo-Natal Mortality Rates		
(deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	—	12
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate		
(deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	—	10
Perinatal Mortality Rate		
(stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	—	22
Maternal Mortality		
(including abortion)		
Number of deaths	—	
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	Nil	
Deaths		
Number of Deaths	64	
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	15.8	12.1
Standardised death rate	8.7	

Population Year	Mid-Year Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1968	3,830	12.5	18.5
1969	3,790	12.7	21.1
1970	3,900	15.1	21.5
1971	4,050	12.6	17.0
1972	4,060	11.8	15.8

The Chief Causes of Death were as follows:

Infective and Parasitic diseases	1
Malignant Neoplasms	12
Endocrine diseases	1
Anaemias	1
Diseases of Nervous System	1
Hypertensive disease	2
Heart diseases	24
Cerebrovascular disease	6
Other diseases of Circulatory System	7
Pneumonia	4
Diseases of digestive system	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1
Motor Vehicle accidents	1
All other accidents	1
Suicides and self-inflicted injuries	1
TOTAL (all causes) ...	64

Age at Death Table

	Male	Female
Under 4 weeks	—	—
4 weeks and under 1 year	—	—
1—4	—	—
5—14	—	—
15—24	1	—
25—34	—	—
35—44	—	—
45—54	—	1
55—64	4	2
65—74	16	7
75 and over	11	22
	32	32

SECTION 'B'

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Hospitals

There are two hospitals in the town. The Memorial Hospital (including Maternity beds) and the Castle Hospital (for Chronic Sick and Geriatric cases). Both of these serve the town and also the large rural area outside the town.

2. County Council Services

The County Council Health and Social Services Departments provide the following services, based on the Health Centre (Okehampton 2231) in the grounds of the Memorial Hospital:—

Domiciliary Midwifery

Home Nursing

Health Visitors

Supervisory care of expectant nursing mothers, and children under five years

School Medical Service

Dental Service for children up to school leaving age, and expectant and nursing mothers

Chiropody

Speech Therapy

Cervical Cytology Clinics

Social Services (Miss S. Hudson—Senior Social Worker)

Occupational Therapy

Vaccination and Immunisation Sessions.

The Hospital Orthopaedic Clinic, Family Planning Association Clinic, and Child Guidance Clinics are also held on the premises.

The Ambulance Service is run under delegated powers by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, providing a 24-hour cover for the district.

The Health Centre accommodates the General Practitioners for the area.

3. Meals-on-Wheels

Mrs. Humphrey (temporary Organiser) reports that the W.R.V.S. service and Luncheon Club provided 6,292 meals, including 2,446 delivered to 26 people in the Borough, 538 and 1,295 to residents in Folly Gate and Hatherleigh respectively.

18 ladies help in the kitchen rota and 16 drive cars to deliver meals, apart from a paid cook and kitchen-help. In addition a rota of 16-year old girls on a Social Study Course in school assist in Tenby House voluntarily.

On an average day meals are provided, Tuesdays and Thursdays, (to over 65's and disabled) as follows:

29 at Tenby House
23 delivered in the Borough.

This is a most valuable service.

4. Maternity

During the year 87 babies were born in the hospital, of whom 28 were of mothers living in the Borough. 58% of mothers living in Okehampton were delivered in the Maternity Unit.

5. Laboratory Services

Bacteriological examinations of specimens and samples of milk, water, ice cream etc., are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter, and any chemical analysis by the Public Analyst at Exeter.

6. Chest Radiography Service

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Okehampton Market Car Park, each month during the year and the results were as follows:

	Male	Female	Total
G.P. referrals included:—23			
Numbers examined	124	109	233
Abnormalities Detected:			
Healed Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	1	1
Hilar Adenitis	—	1	1
Sarcoidosis	1	—	1
Acquired Cardiac Lesion	—	1	1
Bacterial and Virus Infections of the Lungs	—	1	1
Dorsal Scoliosis	1	1	2

SECTION 'C'

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply Sources

Mr. A. E. Robb, the Chief Engineer of the North Devon Water Board (South) has kindly supplied the following information:—

The supply to this area is derived from the Black-a-Ven and Red-a-Ven Rivers, the water receiving treatment in the form of filtration, pH adjustment and sterilization at Brackentor Treatment Works.

Hosepipe restrictions were not applied in the Borough.

Satisfactory chemical and bacteriological samples, taken at regular intervals, have been obtained.

Rainfall Figures

Rainfall figures for the past five years as follows:—

	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Filter Station					52.24
Pleasure Gardens	55.33	44.01	57.33	47.46	50.15
Dry Days (no rain)	112	142	113	129	159

The driest months were July and August and the wettest January and December and the heaviest rainfalls were 1st December 1.57″ and 1.39″ on 5th December.

Sewerage

During the year the Council's Consulting Engineers prepared the final working drawings and Bills of Quantities and tenders for the scheme were invited. The successful tenderer will be commencing work early in the new year on the 15 month contract to provide the works.

It is pleasing that the final year of the existance of the Okehampton Borough Council will see the provision of a modern sewage disposal works for the whole of the Borough as the culmination of many years of effort. Thus Okehampton in the re-organised Local Government will be adequately provided with sewage disposal facilities to cope with both existing and reasonable future demands. Even at this late stage efforts are still being made to secure the provision of mechanical sludge dewatering plant at the works and if current progress is maintained this essential facility will be included in the ultimate scheme.

Public Conveniences

Two main toilet blocks are available to the public, one near the main car park and one near the post office.

Every effort is made to maintain these in a clean and hygienic condition. Damage to toilet facilities during the year has not been a major problem although minor damage is caused periodically.

Rodent Control

Two treatments of the sewer system have again been carried out by the Council's staff in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Eight complaints have been received and dealt with.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The domestic refuse collection arrangements in the Borough continue to operate satisfactorily providing for one collection per week from all domestic premises. All refuse continues to be burnt at the disposal tip and the tip is bulldozed regularly to cover the burnt refuse and to maintain as tidy a surface as possible.

Available tipping space at the refuse tip is now causing considerable concern and it will be necessary for the County Council to take early action following Local Government Re-organisation either to extend the area of the existing tip or to provide some alternative provision in the area.

Frequent inspections continue to be made and very few problems from either rat or fly infestation have been encountered during the year, however periodic test treatments are carried out as a precautionary measure.

Inspection of the District and Public Health Services

The number of complaints regarding public health matters received, recorded and dealt with during the year was eleven.

The following table sets out the inspections carried out during the year.

	Number of Inspections	Number of Informal Notices Served	Number of Informal Notices Complied With
Housing	170	4	4
Drainage	60	3	3
Food Premises	32	2	2
Public Conveniences	45	—	—
Sewerage	92	—	—
Water Supply	1	—	—
Rivers	10	—	—
Refuse Disposal	81	—	—
Rodent Control	29	4	4
Moveable Dwellings	12	—	—
Schools	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases	—	—	—
Petroleum Acts	18	—	—
Offices, Shops and Railway premises Act	12	6	6
Factories	20	—	—
Miscellaneous	190	—	—
TOTAL ...	772	19	19

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Details of inspections carried out in accordance with the Factories Act, 1961 are set out in the tables which follow.

1. Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	3	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	35	12	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-workers' premises).	9	2	—	—
TOTAL	47	16	1	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	*Number of cases in which defects were found*				*Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted*
	Found	*Remedied*	*Referred to H.M. Inspector*	*Referred by H.M. Inspector*	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding .	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature .	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation .	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors .	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient .	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective .	4	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for the sexes .	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including Outwork) .	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .	4	4	—	—	—

3. **Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)**

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	Number of Out-workers in August list required by section 133 (1) (c)	*Number of cases of default in sending lists to Council*	*Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists*	*Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises*	*Notices served*	*Prosecutions*
Wearing Apparel (making etc.)	—	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION 'D'

HOUSING

Town and Country Planning and Building Regulations

Applications for permission to develop under the Town and Country Planning Acts, Advertisement Regulations, Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act and the Building Regulations have been received over the past twelve months as follows:—

Alterations and Conversions	48
Advertisement Signs	7
Public Works	7
New Dwellings	24
Garages	11
Caravan Sites	2
Industrial and Shop Premises	18

of the above 27 applications have been refused.

Private Enterprise

One new house was erected by private enterprise during the year.

Improvement Grants

(a) **Standard Grants**

Seven applications for Standard Improvement Grants under the Provisions of the Housing Acts 1969 and 1971 were received and approved. Twelve Standard Grants have been completed during the year.

(b) **Improvement Grants**

The operation of the Housing Act 1971 has continued to bring in a large number of Improvement Grant Applications.
The additional period within which the 75% grant will continue to be available i.e. for all schemes completed prior to the 23rd June, 1974, has eased the problem a little particularly in relation to applicants being able to find builders to carry out the work for them, but it still seems likely that some who already have outline approval will be unable to secure the completion of works by that date.
Sixteen applications were received during the year, and 13 schemes completed providing 21 dwelling units.

Council Housing

New Houses

No new dwellings have been provided during the year but the winding up of the scheme for the 75 houses and 50 garages at the Moyses Meadow Estate, High Street has continued.

Old People's Dwellings

Problems of the site at The Glen in relation to the adjoining river have been resolved and Architects have now been instructed to prepare the detailed scheme. It is hoped that the coming year will see work commenced on providing this much needed accommodation.

Maintenance and Repairs

Normal maintenance and repairs have been carried out during the year and the majority, except electrical repairs. have been carried out by the Council's Maintenance Staff.

Repairs are carried out as speedily as possible and during the year 376 reports were received and/or dealt with.

SECTION 'E'

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises

The number of food premises falling within the provision of the Food Hygiene Regulations are as follows:—

Grocers	10
Greengrocers	4
Confectioners	3
Bread and Cakes	4
Meat Shops	7
Fish Shops	3
Milk Shops	1
Dairies	2
Hotels and Bars	10
Cafes	8

Ice Cream and Preserved Foods

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 is as follows:—

Ice Cream	26
Preparation or manufacture of sausage or potted or pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale	5

Unsound Food

Twenty certificates for unsound food were issued during the year and 291 lbs. of miscellaneous food stuff condemned.

Slaughterhouses

There are now no slaughterhouses being used in the Borough.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Applications were received for licences or renewal of licences to slaughter, and in all three cases were granted.

Poultry Packing Premises

One poultry packing establishment exists in the Borough where poultry are slaughtered and processed and the throughput of these premises during the year was 273,000.

SECTION 'F'

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Tuberculosis

No new cases were notified, and therefore the Register remains as before with 10 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (7 male and 3 female).

Infectious Diseases Notified by Medical Practitioners

There were 58 cases of Measles notified by Medical Practitioners.

Food Poisoning

No cases were reported.